Dean’s Message

Dear Alumni and Friends of the School of Mathematics and Sciences:

Let me introduce you to the first semi-annual newsletter of the School of Mathematics and Sciences at Reinhardt University. This newsletter is our attempt to keep you updated on all the happenings in your school; past, present and future. I want to thank all the faculty for contributing pieces to this newsletter that sum up many of the activities and accomplishments of our students and the School.

Like all of the first year students, I also recently completed my first semester at Reinhardt. I came to RU from the University of Hartford in West Hartford, Connecticut where I was chair of the Department of Biology (10 years) and director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program (16 years). For me, the move to Georgia and the past 5+ months at RU have been very rewarding. All of the faculty, staff and students have welcomed my wife and me to the area and we are very happy to be here.

Spring semester 2016 is underway and the next three and a half months will be busy with classes, faculty colloquia, the inauguration of a new president, the Convocation of Artists and Scholars, research conferences for faculty, class presentations for students and the list goes on and on. I invite you to please reach out to any of the faculty, staff or myself if you would like to learn more about the School or would like to visit and perhaps share some wisdom and experiences with our current students.

We are always looking for the most effective ways to provide our students with the highest quality educational experience possible. Often this requires resources that we do not have and that is when we must become creative. Any assistance with that creativity is always welcome!

On behalf of the School of Mathematics and Sciences, I wish you all a happy and healthy 2016.
Introducing......

The Reinhardt University School of Mathematics and Sciences would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to our new Dean, Dr. Jacob P. Harney.

A Connecticut native, Dr. Harney served as chair of the Department of Biology and Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program at the University of Hartford in Hartford, Connecticut before coming to RU in July, 2015. In addition to winning several scientific research grants, Dr. Harney has directed over 25 graduate student theses. He has also published research in numerous areas including reproductive physiology, early embryonic development, establishment and maintenance of pregnancy, neurophysiology of reproduction, effects of diet on cognitive function and brain aging.

Dr. Harney earned a B.S. in Animal Science from the University of Connecticut. He earned a M.S. and Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology from the University of Florida.

We are thrilled to have Dr. Harney and with us and look forward to new ideas and continued success under his guidance! For those of you who have not met Dr. Harney, please come by his office (Tarpley 203) and introduce yourself.

Contact Us

Our community is important to us. If you are an alumnus or current student with updates, a prospective major, or someone simply interested in our programs, please contact us — we’d love to hear from you!

Contact Us

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Important Dates

Faculty Colloquium
March 3  3:30 - 4:45

Advising/Registration Period for 2016 Summer & Fall Semesters
March 21 - April 1

Honors Ceremony/Faculty Awards
April 5  7:00 pm - Gym

Faculty Colloquium
April 7  3:30 - 4:45

Deans’ Scholarship Reception
April 7  6:00 pm - Funk

Convocation of Artists & Scholar
April 11-15

Presidential Inauguration
April 15

Last Day of Spring Semester Classes
April 27

Baccalaureate Service
May 5  6:30 pm - FPAC

Commencement Ceremony
May 6  9:30 am - Gym
SBS and Pi Gamma Mu have been very busy this semester. We started the semester by hosting an event to welcome the new Behavioral Science majors and let them meet advisors and fellow majors. We also helped with the Year of Mexico festival.

Our biggest event of the semester was hosting the first Interdisciplinary Social Science Undergraduate Research Conference. The event was sponsored by the Georgia Rho chapter of Pi Gamma Mu. In recognition of our active work (as we were only founded in 2013), we were recently awarded the Roll of Merit. Our conference was a successful event with 19 student presenters representing Reinhardt University and three other colleges. The keynote address was provided by our own Dr. Cheryl Brown who shared her experiences in building bridges across disciplines.

On October 30th, 18 students attended the 15th annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference hosted by Georgia State University. The trip was organized by the Social and Behavioral Sciences club (SBS) and the Pi Gamma Mu honor society. Attendees included 11 presenters. Research presented at this conference was evaluated by a panel of faculty judges. Two of our Psychology majors were ranked among the top presenters (finalists). Congratulations to Charlotte Davenport and Mar'Trina Odom for their excellent work!

**Political Science**

Dr. SimonPeter Gomez and undergraduate student Alex Garcia presented their preliminary research on mass public shootings at the Interdisciplinary Social Science Undergraduate Research Conference in the Glasshouse at Reinhardt University.

The Mock Trial Team was recognized by the Student Government Association and was also recognized by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) as a competing team. The Mock Trial team now has access to thousands of resources through the AMTA, including the case that will be the focus of all regional and national competitions this academic year. The case is entitled “State of Midlands v. Avery Bancroft and Chase Covington” and it centers on a bribery scheme related to the building of a Casino in the fictional state of Midlands.

Dr. SimonPeter Gomez’ SSC 325 Survey Design and Analysis class conducted a
Political Science cont.…

A comprehensive survey this semester designed to measure student satisfaction with campus life. They asked and analyzed questions designed to measure student attitudes toward campus dining services, safety on campus, and residence life. The data and results are available to anyone who requests it. Interested parties should contact Dr. Gomez via email at sg1@reinhardt.edu.

Sociology

Yes, those are ant larvae. They are a delicacy and the community was honoring us by serving them to us.

A Beanie Baby to go with school supplies

Leaving our mark after we painted several classrooms.

Very nice paint job Dr. Good and Sharina!

Year of Mexico

She’s doing it again!

Dr. Cheryl Brown is once again taking a group of Reinhardt students and faculty to Mexico over spring break. This is not a kidnapping nor a hedonistic binge in Cozumel, but is part of a course on the Culture of Mexico.

As many of you know, Dr. Brown co-founded Vidas de Esperanza, a non-profit whose mission is to help community development and meet social needs in the area primarily around Ixmiquilpan. Students engage in fund raising prior to the visit and then are involved in service learning while in Mexico. An important aspect involves hearing from the community for their identified needs and then near the end of the trip, the group discusses how they can help.

Recently, Reinhardt students have raised funds for several initiatives including the milk and eggs program for women with small children, assisting with roof repairs for a rural school (I mean, replacing a metal roof with gaping holes in it), purchasing a computer for a rural school, and raising funds for a functioning well in the indigenous community of El Tablon.

Dr. Brown and our students are examples of the Reinhardt spirit we seek to create and foster.

So – go on - do it again Dr. Brown!

More information about Vidas can be found at: http://www.vidasnc.org/
Sarah Yoder will finish her nursing degree from Emory University in 2016.

Kaitlin Ellis currently works as a research technician at Emory University while applying to graduate schools for Molecular & Cellular Biology.

Alex Riccardi earned her DMD this year and is in private dental practice in Americus, GA.

David Prather is currently in Pharmacy school at UGA.

RU loves to hear from our alumni. We invite any and all alumni that are interested in presenting on their careers to please contact Dr. Irma Santoro at IMS@reinhardt.edu or 770-720-9220.

Let us know what you’ve been up to!

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**Project Pine Snake**

Project Pine Snake is a collaborative project that seeks to gather and share information about the northern pine snake (Pituophis m. melanoleucus) in north Georgia. The pine snake is a large (regularly 5-6’ long) and rare snake listed as a Species of Concern by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. When we began this project there were only 19 documented observations of the subspecies since the first record in 1938. Since 2013 we have nearly tripled this number through our own field work and through extensive outreach efforts. We have visited numerous schools and libraries in the region to speak with people about the conservation of the snake. You may have seen some of our “Wanted” posters at state Wildlife Management Areas or State Parks requesting pictures of pine snakes.

We have also written newspaper articles soliciting help with the project, been featured on Atlanta’s National Public Radio station WABE, and maintain a “Project Pine Snake” Facebook page. Here on campus we have radio-tracked a total of 5 pine snakes in order to understand their movement ecology and basic natural history. These efforts have revealed insights into their habitat use and led to the discovery of the first northern pine snake nest ever in Georgia. We have worked with local landowners to help them manage their property in ways that benefit the species. At almost every step of the process Reinhardt students have been involved and assisted with the project, thereby giving them real-world experience as well as valuable professional contacts.

The Biology program invites any and all alumni to our annual Bioblitz event on April 23, 2016. Bring your kids and join our students as we continue to document the amazing diversity of life found on our beautiful campus. Contact Zach Felix zif@reinhardt.edu for more information!
Beta Beta Beta News

Beta Beta Beta (BBB) National Biological Honor Society is dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biological study and extending boundaries of human knowledge through scientific research. Reinhardt’s chapter (Psi Pi) was chartered in 2004 and has since become one of the most active organizations on campus. Last year, 16 undergraduates were inducted and 19 more will be inducted on February 26th of this year.

Some of the activities BBB has undertaken are: bowling nights, guest speakers, a visit to an apple orchard, and a visit to the Atlanta Zoo. In addition, several BBB members presented research at the Regional BBB conference in Chattanooga, TN. Upcoming activities include a visit to the CDC and a trip to Augusta University School of Allied Health Sciences.

The current slate of officers is as follows: President, Natalee Gordon; Vice President, Amy Williams; Secretary, Diana Perez; Treasurer, Matt Jackson; Historian, Morgan Baugus.

Native Plant Species

Dr. Aliya Donnell is conducting an inventory of the naturally occurring plant species on the Reinhardt University campus. With the help of student assistants, Dr. Donnell has documented over 100 species of vascular plants on the campus, including several species of native orchids. She is also interested in starting a herbarium (a museum of preserved plant specimens).

So far, Dr. Donnell and her students have collected nearly 300 specimens of plants from north Georgia alone. Currently, the process of mounting the specimens collected is in progress, with the help of student volunteers (see photos). In the upcoming years, she hopes to create a searchable database of plants found on Reinhardt-owned lands, as well as develop a fully functioning herbarium.
Beyond Dobbs Series

The “Beyond Dobbs” speaker series was a huge success this year. This speaker series is a way for students to get practical information and advice from experts in their field on careers in the Biological Sciences. We had overflowing attendance at some of the presentations.

Presenters this fall were:

- Dr. Stuart Loos, Orthodontist, presented “The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: All you need to know about the Dental Profession” on October 15th.

- Mr. Bill Switzer, MS, CDC Scientist, presented “Zombie Preparedness” on October 30th (standing room only for this presentation)!

- Martina Waggoner, RN, BSN, Nurse, presented “Everything you wanted to know about the nursing profession” on November 13th.

We will be inviting more speakers for the spring 2016 semester. Topics to be included this spring are Environmental Consulting and Horticulture.

Dr. Santoro’s BIO 340 Cell Biology class presented their independent research studies in a virtual poster session for the entire Reinhardt community on November 24th.
Math Alumni News

Dallas Hollis (class of 2015) is a double major in math and math education. She just finished student teaching and has secured a math teaching position only 1 week later at Riverwood International Charter High School in Atlanta.

Let us know what you’ve been up to!

RU - CCSD Math Tournament

The 2015-16 RU-CCSD Math Tournament had 84 participants and approximately 100 attendees.

Since fall 2008, The Mathematics Program sponsors and runs a math competition for middle and high school students from the Cherokee County School District. Individual winners in the Varsity category receive also a scholarship for attending Reinhardt University. On November 14th, 2015, in the Bannister Glasshouse 84 participants, with a total of more than 100 attendees, had fun while answering challenging math questions.

Individual winners in the Junior Varsity category were Andy Jiang (1st, from Woodstock High School), Kieran Black (2nd, from Etowah High School), and David Hauser (from River Ridge). In the Varsity category the winners were Michael Gustafson (1st, from Woodstock High School), Mackenzie Joy (2nd, from Sequoyah High School), and Tony Wineman (from Etowah High School).

In both the Junior Varsity and the Varsity category the winning teams were the Team A from Woodstock High School (1st, with coaches Henry Oglesby and Loretta Cameron) and from Etowah High School (2nd, with coaches Tabatha Box and Wright Vermilya).

This year we started what we hope is going to be a new tradition. We collected a box of various canned food items that we donated to “The Least of These Ministries” food pantry in Waleska.
The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program commenced in August 2013 with nine students. Reinhardt’s MPA is a high-quality generalist, practice-oriented, research-based, and ethics-focused program to educate and prepare students for professional and leadership careers in the public service. Students interact weekly and through online presentations with experienced faculty and practitioners to learn not only textbook knowledge, but also practical, real-world skills and lessons.

MPA students complete a thought-provoking and distinctive project to present to community leaders and administrators. These professional portfolios contain students’ research initiatives and policy recommendations. In April 2015 at Reinhardt’s Convocation of Artists and Scholars, Olivia Burrell-Jackson presented her work to promote economic development in the City of Lithonia. Because of her work on this policy proposal and her efforts to obtain grant funding for the city, Olivia received a fellowship with the City of Decatur. Moreover, this year, Tyler Vanderberg, K-9 officer for the City of Acworth, led an “Impact” operation designed to target and lower property crimes in a high crime area of the city. With an interest in community policing, Corporal Vanderberg has also researched and presented a policy recommendation for police departments to study independently the costs and benefits of implementing the usage of body cameras by officers. Our MPA students are addressing current, significant policy issues, and their endeavors are gaining them recognition and opportunities with administrators and local agencies.

Most importantly, we are thrilled that our first cohort of students graduated in May 2015, and we are pleased that four more students will successfully complete degree requirements in May 2016. Reinhardt’s MPA students and graduates are employed in diverse professions including public safety, healthcare administration, state and local government administration, and community development.
Math & Science Dean’s List – Fall 2015

Major Breakdown

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Congratulations to all the Math & Science students that achieved this status!

Discover your passion. Make a difference. Answer the questions you care about. Learn about yourself and the world around you...

It's Your Path and We Help You Get There.

The School of Mathematics & Sciences at Reinhardt offers you exciting academic programs that build the foundation for a successful future. As a student, you will have the opportunities for hands-on learning and field experiences that prepare you for whatever path you take after graduation—whether it's furthering your education in graduate school or entering a career in your field.

Degree programs are offered in Biology, Mathematics, Political Science, Sociology and Psychology, as well as an associate's degree in Pre-Nursing.

Even though the associated fields courses are not part of a degree program, they give you a deeper understanding of a specific area of science.

Faculty Experienced In & Out of Classroom
You can learn from faculty who are experts of their field in the classroom and in the real world. From a molecular geneticist to a licensed therapist, the faculty are committed to your academic success and to challenge you to reach your fullest potential.

Minors Give You a Well-Rounded Experience
Do you want a program to complement your current degree program? You also have the option of minoring in an area of Mathematics and Sciences. You can choose from six different minors, from biology to social science research.

Make Your Biggest Discovery in the School of Mathematics & Sciences. For more information, contact Dr. Jacob "Jake" Harney, dean of the School of Mathematics & Sciences, at 770-720-9102 or JPH@reinhardt.edu